

A

LETTER

TO

WM. E. CHANNING, D.D.

IN REPLY TO ONE ADDRESSED TO HIM

BY R. R. MADDEN,

ON THE

ABUSE OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE

ISLAND OF CUBA,

FOR PROMOTING THE SLAVE TRADE.

BY A CALM OBSERVER.

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LETTER.

HAVANA, JANUARY, 1840.

SIR,

A pamphlet published at Boston, by a Dr. R. R. Madden, has recently been put into my hands. It is called "A Letter on the subject of the abuse of the Flag of the United States, in the Island of Cuba, and the advantage taken of its protection in promoting the Slave Trade;" and being addressed to you, it certainly will engage public attention, although it is not what it professes to be, but really a malignant attack on N. P. Trist, American Consul at Havana; probably intended rather to gratify the bitterness and bad feeling of its author against that gentleman, than to further the interests of humanity. Still Dr. Madden, seeming to think that it may call forth some remarks from you; and I being convinced that nothing would induce you to engage in a personal contest, or write in an unchristian spirit; I do hope, that the important subject of which the Dr. affects to treat, will be brought by you before the people of the United States; and that you, whom an eminent British Philanthropist has designated "the most eloquent writer of America," will employ your mighty pen to enlist the feelings of all our fellow citizens against a Trade, in which, I am sorry to confess, some of them are still engaged, though not either in the number, or to the extent, that Dr. Madden pretends.

In doing so, you will not, I am satisfied, enter upon the question on the ex-parte evidence of Dr. Madden, who is evidently either a zealot or a hypocrite. I would fain believe him the former, but he is more likely both; for it is a fact, that these characters are often blended. You will on the contrary draw materials from purer sources, and be satisfied of the truth of your premises before you proceed to inferences.

To assist you in this object, I would take leave to pass in review the statements which Dr. Madden has made; and I would add some facts relative to the Slave Trade, which, as a quiet observer, long sojourning in this Island, I have been able to collect.

Before I proceed, it is however necessary, as many of the Doctor's statements rest on his own assertion alone, to form an opinion as to the value which ought to attach to his testimony.

He may be dishonest, and have intentionally asserted untruths, but I trust this is not the case : — or he may be honest, and yet, either from prejudice or passion, selfishness, conceit, or from a mind habitually inexact, distorted and illogical, he may have seen things in a false light, and in consequence unintentionally maintained what is false, or represented what is true, under a false coloring. And before we attach entire credence to what Dr. Madden says, it is requisite to ascertain whether he is in either of these categories, or whether he is a man whose intentions and judgment are equally good, and who, therefore, may be implicitly relied on.

I shall not speak of what has come to my knowledge of Dr. Madden's conduct during his residence in this country, though many of its traits would sufficiently characterize him. It is from his published works, that I shall take leave to depict the man, and these fortunately afford me ample means of doing so.

Dr. Madden is the author of a novel called "The Mussulman," or "Travels in the East."

An Essays on "The Infirmities of Genius."

"Twelve months in the West Indies," and of "Breathings of Prayer, in many Lands."

The first of these works I have never seen ; — of the second, the Edinburgh Reviewers, no mean authorities, say (in their 50th volume, page 412,) "These letters look like the materials that Ariosto might have collected for a rambling extravaganza, converted into authentic prose ;" and without any thing like pique against Dr. Madden, whom I hardly know, I cannot help observing, that this seems to me a pretty accurate description of his letter to you : and when they add, that Dr. Madden "has not the art of gaining the confidence of his readers," and "our observations will justify our scepticism in him," I cannot help feeling as if these words were put into my mouth. But critics, you know, Sir, are a cynical set. They take offence easily ; and it is possible, that, disgusted with Dr. Madden, "a writer who had not yet won his first spurs," for sneering at Herodotus, an historian whom he can neither appreciate nor even read, and at Dr. Edward Daniel Clarke, the most learned traveller of our times, as well as at many others infinitely his superiors in knowledge and observation, these gentry of the Buff and Blue may have dealt harshly with him ; and though their rivals of the Quarterly were yet more severe, (see No. 82—page 411,) yet I think it is hardly fair that we should class Dr. Madden, as

they do, without letting him speak for himself. This he shall ; and as on a moderate computation he uses the pronoun "I" six thousand times in his above-mentioned "Travels in the East," we shall doubtless there learn something of his character. He shall have the full benefit of it. In turning over the pages of his book, we find, what nobody that I have met with here, ever discovered, that he is a very handsome man. Witness his pretty picture, in a Syrian Costume, forming the frontispiece of his first volume. Also, that he is a very generous man : "A poor fellow," he says, "offered me a bundle of checks for which the sheik would only give him half their amount ; I took them at their full value." (Vol. 1, p. 209.) "I visited the Lunatic Asylum, the inmates were famished, I sent out for a few piastres worth of bread, dates, and sour milk." (Vol. 1, p. 221.) "I found a wretched creature actually dying. I gave some piastres to buy straw for his last miserable pallet." (Vol. 1, p. 223.) But more than this, he is a most prodigal man : he gives one piastre after another to the Arab children. (Vol. 2, p. 51.) He is a most enterprising person ; he gets through a passage of the Temple at Edfou, which Hamilton attempted, "but could not succeed," and in which Belzoni failed. (Vol. 2, p. 67.) He is a most renowned physician : the Nubians imagined, that he effected cures by supernatural agency. (Vol. 2, p. 81.) He is a most inventive person : wanting quicksilver to salivate his patients, he took it out of the bulb of his thermometer. (Vol. 2, p. 85.) He is a most successful searcher after curiosities. Dr. Clarke procured on his travels, only the sarcophagus of Alexander the Great, the colossal statue of the Eleusinian Ceres, the manuscript of Plato's works and a few other such trifles ; but Dr. Madden found, at ten miles from Alexandria, an English soldier's regimental button, and, on the Bay of Aboukir, a British cannon ball. (Vol. 2, p. 89.) He is honest : he tries to persuade his boatman to restore a stolen pelican. (Vol. 2, p. 117.) He is a good merchant : he takes pipes and coffee, and pays in physic. (Vol. 2, p. 118.) He is polite : he drinks rakee spirits of dark color, and disagreeable taste to please his host. (Vol. 2, p. 120.) He is a pugilist : a Turkish officer who offended him, "measured his length on the floor instantler ;" (Vol. 2, p. 94.) and he knocked off the cocked hat of the English Consul at Jaffa. (Vol. 2, p. 267.) He is musical, and sings an Arab song ; (Vol. 2, p. 127.) and he is loveable, for the girls glance at him most tenderly. (Vol. 2, p. 210.) But all this is nothing compared with his learning : he acts as interpreter between Greeks and Arabs ; (Vol. 2, p. 287,) he delights in the declamation of Arab poetry ; he dis-

poses in half a dozen words of the comparative reputation of Arab poets; and discusses, with lady Hester Stanhope, every subject connected with oriental learning, (Vol. 2, p. 174.)

Will it be believed, Sir, that the man who makes such pretensions is unacquainted with the very rudiments of Arabic? Let the note No. 1, in the Appendix prove it; and then, Sir, say whether much credit is to be placed in the statements of such a Charlatan.

But if this quackery disfigures Dr. Madden's "Letters from the East," how much more is this the case in his Essay on "The Infirmities of Genius." There he affects to be a classic, and misquotes right and left, from Greek and Latin authors, deriving, as the Quarterly Reviewers incontrovertibly prove, (See note 2.) his extracts from the "Anatomy of Melancholy" of old Burton; who, as they add, "being generally so obliging as to give translations of what he quotes, is an invaluable repertorium to one who would be a scholar with small Latin and no Greek." Now, to be without either is no disgrace. Some of the master-spirits of this and other ages have been equally unlearned; but "he who can indulge in the poor vanity of dressing himself up in borrowed feathers, and making a pompous *étalage* of what does not belong to him," is guilty of a fraud which should render us very suspicious of the truth of statements, which go to raise his reputation at the expense of that of his neighbors. Dr. Madden's work on the West Indies has some merit. I am too candid to deny it: though the same parade of learning, which he does not possess, is exhibited in it. But what I would especially refer to in this book, as showing Dr. Madden's inability to appreciate character, and judge of human actions, is his attempt to prove that Bolivar was a greater man than Washington. What reliance can we place on the understanding of an author who forms such opinions? The last work of Dr. Madden is another evidence of his self-conceit and ignorance. He will needs be a poet, (of all his mistakes perhaps the most egregious,) and a sacred poet to boot. "One of those, who, devoted to the cause of holiness, scatter over the paths of desolation flowers of unfading loveliness." A bouquet of these "lovely unfading flowers," I present to you in the note No. 3; they are peculiarly odoriferous, and will leave a pleasing remembrance of the Dr. when we take leave of him.

With these remarks, I think I have proved, that Dr. Madden is a conceited, unlettered man, wanting in judgment, and even dishonest; and that his testimony on the subject of which he writes so violently must therefore be received with great caution.

Begging you to bear these facts in mind, I will now proceed

to examine the "assumptions," as he calls them, on which Dr. Madden would lead you to ground certain conclusions to the prejudice of our citizens in general, and of Mr. Trist in particular. The first of them is, "That the Spanish slave trade has gradually and steadily increased from the year 1820 to the present year (1839,) and the importations have been augmented from 15,000 to 25,000 per annum."

Here, Sir, we have a specimen of Dr. Madden's usual loose statements, and illogical reasoning; the first, inasmuch as he gives no proof whatever of the correctness of his assertions, the last, because he does not show, if true, how the abuse of the American flag, about which he is treating, is connected with the increased import of slaves. The fact is (I derive my information from the published reports of the British Commissioners who reside here for the express purpose of watching the operations of the slave dealers,) it has not gradually and steadily increased; for in 1839, the arrivals in this part of the island, (and in no others are they considerable,) reached but 12,500; whilst in 1838, they were 14,400; in 1837, 15,500; in 1836, about 14,500; and in 1835, 15,000. Meanwhile, of American vessels for Africa, in 1835, none cleared; 1836, none cleared; 1837, about 11; in 1838, about 19; in 1839, about 24. So that, when the American flag was not employed to carry out goods to Africa, the import of slaves was larger than at present; and with its increased use, that import has happened to decrease. Dr. Madden says next, "that the great amount of American capital invested in slave property in the island of Cuba, and the energy with which the new American settlers have entered on the cultivation of new land (the establishment of new American plantations averaging during the last three years, twenty a year) have largely contributed to give an impetus to the trade, which has been fatal to the efforts made for its suppression."

I am not in the habit of using violent expressions, but when I see such a statement made as the above, namely, that since 1836, American settlers have formed sixty new plantations, I declare the Doctor to be guilty of a falsehood. Not sixty, I would almost say not six, have been formed in that time by new settlers from America; and I call on Dr. Madden to prove this assertion, which, if true, he can easily do, for every property in the island is registered in the public offices. But admitting that some Americans have invested capital in estates in this island, where is the illegality of it? Have not British subjects done the same? Did not Dr. Madden himself, shortly before his departure, go a visiting to one of his own countrymen, a native of Erin, who is a planter, and with whose recep-

tion he was delighted ? And is the purchase of Bozal negroes a necessary consequence of the formation of a plantation ?

The worthy individual I have just alluded to, than whom no more humane or estimable man is living, would have told Dr. Madden, that *his* plantation was worked entirely by slaves, either introduced at a period when the slave-trade was licit, or born here ; and that many other plantations were in the same state. It is true, as may be said, that by employing slaves at all, these foreigners create a demand for such labor, and thus encourage the illicit traffic. But it is just as true, that those British merchants that purchase the produce of Cuba, those London Bankers who grant credits for carrying on its exportation, those English mechanics who employ negroes to work for them, and even the Doctor himself when he sips his coffee or sweetens his tea, contribute in a greater or less proportion to the encouragement of the slave trade. If this is to be avoided, Congress and the British Parliament must pass a non-intercourse act, prohibiting Americans and Englishmen from visiting the island of Cuba.

Dr. Madden's third assumption, is, "that the recent treaty of 1835, between Spain and England, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, has been successfully evaded by the practice adopted of shipping the stores for Africa on board American vessels at the Havana." And I would ask him, whether the same stores are not shipped by British vessels from England ? I have before me a Liverpool paper, in which I find clearances from thence and London of bolt-iron, cotton-goods, Geneva rum, &c., to Bonny, the market whence more slaves are exported, than from any other on the coast of Africa.

He asserts, fourthly, "That American vessels are suffered to proceed with stores to Africa, and even return to the island of Cuba, under the Portuguese flag, with full knowledge of the Consul of the United States." The first part of this statement is correct ; American vessels are suffered to proceed from hence with stores to Africa, with the full knowledge of the Consul, as English are from Liverpool without the interference of that government. The second is nonsense. How can a vessel under Portuguese colors be an American ?

Fifth, he says, "that all the vessels in the Spanish slave trade are built in America, chiefly in Baltimore ; and are publicly sold for the slave trade in the Havana by the foreign merchants." This is not exact. The Socorro is French built ; some of the fastest sailers are Spanish built ; one or two are built here ; and one, if I mistake not, the *Linc*, was built in England ; but owing to that country not being famous

for the construction of fast sailing merchant vessels, few are sent for sale to Havana. But for this circumstance, Great Britain would just as well supply the slave traders here with ships, as she does with muskets, gunpowder, manufactures and other articles. The \$1,250,000 of goods manufactured in Lancashire annually, and adapted only for the slave trade, according to Mr. Buxton's statement, form a somewhat different amount to what we manufacture, in shipping, applied to the same object. The British Commissioners' returns for 1838, before referred to, show, that nineteen American vessels cleared for Africa in that year. Let us take them at the high average value of \$10,000 each, and we shall find how small is the sum which America supplies to the trade annually compared with England, \$190,000 against \$1,250,000 ! And it would be an amusing fact, if it were not too disgusting, that one of the sellers of these vessels in this place is a man, well known in Boston, with whom, as the note No. 4. shows, Dr. Madden was on terms of intimacy up to the time of his departure. Here, Sir, I place the Doctor in a dilemma. Either he knew, that that person was connected with such business, and if so ought to have avoided him : or he did not, and if so, made a very false representation in his deposition taken at Hartford, in the case of the *Amistad*, when he stated that he was as fully informed of what was passing here respecting the slave trade as any foreigner could be. In fact, Dr. Madden is very inconsistent or very ignorant, or he would never have named as his official substitute, in his absence, a gentleman who sells, not, it is true, Baltimore clippers (as he gets no consignments of them,) but as many Scotch goods, suitable for slave trading purposes, as the strait laced manufacturers in Glasgow choose to send, and the loose moraled traders of Havana think fit to buy of him. Dr. Madden goes on to say,—

Sixthly. "That fraudulent transfers of the papers of American vessels employed or destined for the slave trade are frequently made." If the Doctor means, that degraded citizens of the United States, like his *protégé*, Mr. Joshua W. Littig, admit ships to be registered in their names, which really belong to Spaniards, he is quite right ; then fraudulent transfers do take place. But what has the American Government or people, or Consul to do with this fact ? Such rogues as Littig are to be met with in most countries ; perhaps even in Ireland. Let us suppose, that a British ship-owner had a vessel to sell, and that Dr. Madden was a shipmaster, and lent his name to Mr. Forcade or any other notorious slave-trader, and allowed himself to be called her owner, could the British Government,

people or Consul, prevent the transfer? certainly not. And this is all that was done in the case of the *Eagle*. The papers given by Dr. Madden at page 27 to 32 of his pamphlet prove it. They show, that a Mr. Wingate, an American citizen, holding the power of Mr. Harrison and Mr. Price, the owners of the vessel, sold her to another American citizen, called Joshua W. Littig, and that the bill of sale was made before or by Mr. Trist. But what is there of fraud, collusion, or connivance on the part of Mr. Trist in this act? The fraud was on the part of Mr. Littig, who accepted the purchase in his name, paid another man's money for it, took command of the *Eagle* as owner, though he knew that he was not so, and bound himself to follow the orders of one Francisco Morales, who was in fact the agent of the Spanish buyer. I will leave it to any merchant, even though he should be a second Zachariah Macauley, or any commercial lawyer, or any man of practical knowledge in any country, I will leave it to Lord Brougham, whose views respecting slavery are ultra, and whom according to Dr. Madden, Mr. Trist has insulted by calling him "Henry Brougham without the Lord," (as if the nobility of that distinguished man did not make all titles superfluous,) to say whether the transfer of the *Eagle*, as described by Dr. Madden, from one citizen to another, was or was not fraudulent on the part of any one *but* Mr. Littig, and whether Mr. Trist, in his character of Consul could, according to the laws of his country, have refused to make it? But Dr. Madden says,—

Seventhly. "That slaves under fictitious titles, described in fraudulent declarations as free indented laborers, and duly attested by the Consul of the United States, have been exported from Havana to Texas;" and in his remarks on this point, the worthy Doctor has made several most egregious blunders. He declares,—

1st. That Mr. Trist officially acknowledges, that he gave his signature to the fraudulent declarations of captains of American vessels carrying slaves to Texas; and,

2d. That the British Commissioners having in their correspondence with their government mentioned the subject, it was in all probability made known at Washington, and Mr. Trist *in consequence, on the 23d of Feb. 1836*, issued a notice to American shipmasters of the illegality of taking slaves or colored persons held to service or labor, to Texas or to any other country.

Now the fact is, that Mr. Trist never acknowledged any

such thing. What he did acknowledge* was, that he had certified the signature of an American settler in Texas, (Colonel Fannin,) to a declaration that certain negroes whom that individual had bought, were to be free after an apprenticeship of seven years in Texas, then not recognised by the United States, but regarded as a part of Mexico, where slavery did not, as it does not, exist ; and in doing so, he very justly considered himself, not as promoting the slave trade or slavery, but on the contrary, as assisting to rescue a number of his fellow-creatures from bondage in this island ; and I should like to know what Dr. Madden would have said, if Mr. Trist had refused his signature to such a document. But this act had nothing whatever to do with American ships or American shipmasters. The warning of the 2d February, 1836, has no connexion with it, except in Dr. Madden's addle brain ; and though still on the door of the American Consulate, would not prevent Mr. Trist from giving again, if called for, certificates to the same effect as those which he gave Colonel Fannin. The certificate has no relation to the shipment of negroes by American vessels, — the notice no reference to any thing else. But the greatest absurdity is the supposition, that the despatch of the British Commissioners, in allusion to the Texian slave trade, the first they ever wrote on the subject, on the 1st of January 1836, had any influence, by being communicated by the British Government to Washington, in producing Mr. Trist's notice to shipmasters. Dr. Madden is a poor hand at dates. The above-mentioned despatch, arrived in England on the 29th February, 1836, — Mr. Trist's notice, as we have seen, was published at Havana on the 23d of the same month.

But Dr. Madden goes on to assert, —

Eighthly. "That within the last two years and a half, two vessels have been detected landing slaves in the United States ; one of which, the Emperor, was taken by an American vessel of war and sent to Pensacola for trial ? and on her release, by one of those illegal transfers became Portuguese, and was subsequently taken, about June last, by a British cruiser, under the name of the Sierra del Pilar."

One of these vessels, the Doctor does not name.

The other, the Emperor, was, he says, taken by an American ship of war, sent to Pensacola, and there released. The sentence of a court, therefore, disproves the Doctor's statement. She was released. And where is the American

* Or rather, *freely make known*, without being questioned by any one.

who will believe, for the purity of our Judges is proverbial, that if really detected in slave trading, she would not have been condemned? The first case rests on the Doctor's bare assertion, poor authority, as we have seen, under any circumstances, but especially so when he is unable to give a single particular to establish it. What was the first vessel's name? where did she load? where did she land her cargo? at what date did the transaction take place? how and by whom was she detected? Surely these are questions we may require to be satisfactorily answered, before we believe one word of Dr. Madden's assertion. What the sale of the Emperor to the Portuguese has to do with American slave trading, I am at a loss to know. Just as much, I suppose, as the sale of the British brigantine *Arrogante* to the Spanish, by whom she is now navigated under the name of the *Iberia*.

The ninth of Dr. Madden's assumptions, is,—

"That the slave trade of Cuba for the last two years has been carried on under the protection of the Portuguese and American flags."

The tenth, "That the Spanish flag during that period, with one or two exceptions, fell into complete disuse."

These statements are true, except as concerns the American flag, which has only been used indirectly, like the English, or directly, when some unworthy citizen occasionally lent his name to a Spanish slave trader, in the manner noticed in this letter. But as far as the Doctor's assertions apply, they *they might go farther back*: for even in 1837, there cleared hence for Africa forty Portuguese, and only nineteen Spanish, and eleven American vessels, and arrived here from Africa forty-eight Portuguese and three Spanish. But why mix up the Portuguese with the American flag? *What have the United States Government and its agents to do with the former? The latter, it is admitted, has been occasionally abused*: by what laws were American authorities to prevent it? A vessel comes here. She clears out on a trading voyage for the coast of Africa; there may be suspicions of her being intended to be employed for illegal purposes, but can the Consul or any other agent, on mere suspicion, hinder her departure? No, Sir, nor if an English vessel were to be employed under similar circumstances, could the English Consul prevent it. Though not versed in English law, I state the fact without the fear of contradiction. George Canning (I hope Dr. Madden will not find fault with me for omitting to call him the Right Honorable,) in 1825 instructed Mr. Parkinson, then Consul at Bahia, in such an event, not to detain any English

ship or shipmaster, but to discourage the latter from such a voyage, and if he persisted in it, to report the case home! On the same plan Mr. Trist acted. When he thought vessels were intended for illegal traffic, he warned the masters of the consequences, and never failed, in his half-yearly returns, to report to his government the departure of American vessels for Africa as well as for all other parts. Had he acted otherwise, had he been led away, by ignorant zeal for the interests of humanity, or an unworthy affectation of zeal, to detain an American vessel, on mere suspicion, he would have infringed the laws of our country; and those brawlers, who, with Dr. Madden in their van, are now so clamorous, would have raised their voices still more loudly against Mr. Trist, and with better reason; especially those of the Doctor's followers who, as will appear further on, have been personally engaged in the slave trade. But though Mr. Trist acted according to the laws, he saw the defect of these laws, and pointed out to our government the necessity of amending them to prevent the abuse of our flag; as appears from the following paragraph in the President's last annual message.

"Recent experience has shown that the provisions in our existing laws which relate to the sale and transfer of American vessels while abroad, are extremely defective. Advantage has been taken of these defects to give to vessels wholly belonging to foreigners, and navigating the ocean, an apparent American ownership. This character has been so well simulated as to afford them comparative security in prosecuting the slave trade, a traffic emphatically denounced in our statutes, regarded with abhorrence by our citizens, and of which the effectual suppression is no where more sincerely desired than in the United States. These circumstances make it proper to recommend to your early attention a careful revision of these laws, so that, without impeding the freedom and facilities of our navigation, or impairing an important branch of our industry connected with it, the integrity and honor of our flag may be carefully preserved. Information derived from our Consul at Havana, showing the necessity of this, was communicated to a committee of the Senate near the close of the last session, but too late, as it appeared, to be acted upon. It will be brought to your notice by the proper department, with additional communications from other sources."

Is it after this that our citizens will be made to believe, by an agent of a foreign government, that our Republic or its representative in Havana is anxious to promote the slave trade? The heads of the British administration would never have of-

fended us by such an insinuation ; indelicacy of this kind belongs only to an understrapper like Dr. Madden.

The eleventh assumption of the said Doctor is, "That on the dismissal from office of the notorious slave trader, Fernandez, the Portuguese Consul, Mr. Trist became the acting consul for that nation."

Before I proceed to answer this assumption, I must be allowed a slight digression. It is due to Mr. Fernandez, one of the most amiable and intelligent men resident in Havana, to say that the British Government and their Commissioners at Sierra Leone are completely in error in one point respecting him. (that such a blunderer as Dr. Madden should be, would hardly have been worth noticing.) They, the Sierra Leone Commissioners, in a despatch of the 30th May, 1838, say that the Havana Consul selected by Portugal "is one of the most extensive and notorious of the slave dealers whose names are to be found in the records of the different mixed courts ;" and that "this Don Jose Fernandez appears to be the same person to whom the letter at page 49, of class A. 1831, was addressed by Edward Jousiffe, now a convict in Freetown gaol. In that letter Jousiffe offered to take a share in some of Fernandez's slave vessels, and to ship him one thousand prime slaves yearly from Rio Pongas ;" and the British Government, as is proved by a letter to their minister at Lisbon, adopted these ideas. But the fact is, that Mr. Jose Miguel Fernandez, the late Portuguese Consul, is not the individual whom the British Government and Commissioners suppose. That individual is one Don Jose Fernandez, a well known planter in this island. Don Jose Miguel Fernandez is *never once mentioned, either directly or indirectly, in such of the records of the mixed courts as have been published* ; and though I confess, Dr. Channing, for my case is so clear, that I wish to conceal nothing, it is said that this Jose Miguel Fernandez, like many men esteemed respectable, and really so in all other matters, once pursued the slave trade, (I could name some in Liverpool who did so after it was abolished in England,) yet he has long since given it up, long before he was appointed Consul here ; and I would add, that his removal, not effected, as Dr. Madden supposes, by representations of the British Government, but at the instigation of a fraudulent-paper selling Consul of H. M. F. Majesty, (whose name the inhabitants of Baltimore perhaps know,) has contributed more than any thing else to the abuse of the Portuguese flag for slave trading purposes. This abuse, Mr. Fernandez prevented ; he detected several false registers, prevented transfers of foreign vessels to

the Portuguese flag, after January, 1837, the period at which such transfers ceased to be legal, and in fact he did every thing which the laws of the country that he represented justified his doing, to put an end to the slave trade. The abuses, which under Mr. Fernandez ceased, have been renewed under a foreign Consul. That Consul is not Mr. Trist, he is too high-minded to countenance fraud. But to return : Mr. Trist never was acting Portuguese Consul. He, as the Consul of a nation at amity with Portugal, as any other Consul, except perhaps the English, for reasons not necessary to be explained, would, if called on, have done, certified the signatures of the Spanish authorities to documents presented to him, and the matricula and muster rolls of Portuguese vessels. But in so doing how did he connive at or promote the slave trade? What new character did his signature give to the flag of that nation? Did such signature render Portuguese vessels less liable to search or examination? It never was expected that it should, the result has proved that it did not. But if the above remarks which I have made be true, then the 12th assumption of Dr. Madden, "that the use and abuse of these two flags were of necessity known to Mr. Trist and were connived at by him," falls to the ground.

I have thus, I flatter myself, disposed pretty satisfactorily of Dr. Madden's twelve assumptions, as he calls them; from which you are to draw such extraordinary conclusions to the prejudice of a large portion of our fellow citizens. And here my task, as far as my attempts go to disprove Dr. Madden's professed charge as to "the abuse of the flag of the United States in the Island of Cuba, and the advantage taken of its protection in promoting the slave trade," might end. But he has so mixed up the little that he has to say on this subject, with the much, that he adduces against Mr. Trist, that I am obliged, in order to pursue him through all his sinuosities, though the defence of my countrymen is alone what I have in view, to take up the cudgels for Mr. Trist, especially as the Doctor would represent that gentleman's continuance in office, as a proof of the government of the United States countenancing the Cuban slave trade.

Let us therefore see what the learned author has to bring forward besides his famous "assumptions."

As many of Dr. Madden's charges against Mr. Trist have not the slightest connexion, with the subject of his letter, I shall only touch on the same *en passant*, and this merely to bear my brief testimony, humble though it be, to the character and feelings and intelligence of one of our worthiest citizens. I

will dispose of these charges first, and proceed afterwards to those made against him, in which our government and country are mixed up. The exceedingly fastidious Dr. Madden, who is so much an enemy to invective and vulgar abuse, has, notwithstanding asserted that Mr. Trist is "arrogant," "neglectful of his duties," "rude," "incapable," "intractable," "injudicious," "overbearing," "dishonest," "self-sufficient," "vain," "pedantic," "prolix," "an official chimpanzee," "a political pigmy," "a participator in piracy," "a mighty small gentleman." Whether this be invective and vulgarity, you, Sir, will judge. But it is at all events false. Mr. Trist is, as the well bred and well educated of our countrymen who have visited this Island, as our respectable merchants established here, and as a vast many foreigners know, quite the reverse of what is stated. Even Mr. Kennedy, the chief British Commissioner, in a despatch to Lord Palmerston, dated the 22nd August, 1838, bears testimony to Mr. Trist being "a gentleman of high character, as well as of considerable reading and observation." And again, our author says, Mr. Trist "is poor:" a sad offence in Dr. Madden's eyes! And yet he is "mercenary:" a quality in singular opposition to his poverty. Mr. Trist is an "Egotist" and a "Pretender to learning;" and this is worst of all, for it is treading rather too closely on a territory which, as I have shown before, is Dr. Madden's own.

Mr. Trist's friends would have been better pleased had he not anathematized the British House of Lords. But after all he has done no more than follow the example of *some* of its own members, and of *many* of the lower house. His friends could also well have spared his remarks on Brougham, or O'Connell; but if we remember their violence when speaking of slavery in the United States, the vehemence of Mr. Trist may be excused. His same friends, or at least many of them, think that Mr. Trist has laid himself open to animadversion, by the mention of his "Grandmother," and Dr. Madden has made merry with this name. Dr. Madden probably never had a Grandmother. But I had; and when I recollect that, after shedding a tear over the graves of parents, of whom I was too early bereaved, it was to that revered person, that I owe all that I know and all that I feel,—that she first pointed out to me the path of duty; my sentiments teach me to respect, not to laugh at, Mr. Trist for an allusion to her to whom he is indebted for that which constitutes him, better than all titles, one of the nobles of the earth. He is also blamed for speaking of his daughter, that lovely child, who, under the blessing of Heaven, will, I doubt not, one day return from Europe to adorn her country. The arts of peace

are those to which he would dedicate her talents, but in the fervor of his patriotism, he would wish that, if in this sphere her usefulness were circumscribed, if war should rage, if the independence of his country were endangered, even *her* arm should be raised in its defence. Who shall limit the conceptions such a father has formed of his children's sufficiency? Who the affections of such a heart? Not Dr. Madden. He can comprehend no such feelings. The extent of his parental attachment is exhibited in the perpetration of a bad sonnet to his "audacious boy,"—"his tiny warbler." (See *Twelve months in the West Indies*, American Edition, Vol. 1, page 157.)

So much for the Doctor's piquant *hors d'œuvre*, in which he has endeavored to knead together with culinary skill, pseudo-philanthropy, vulgar invective, and kitchen wit.

I now come to that part of his attack on Mr. Trist, which has reference to the latter's alleged defence of the slave trade. And here, as his charges are of a most serious character, it is necessary that I should classify them, (if a classification can be made of his disordered ravings) so as to reply, point by point, to what he asserts.

The following are these charges so classified :—

1. That Mr. Trist bestowed "the most unmeasured reproach it is possible to conceive on the British Government." (Pamphlet, page 7.)

2. That he ventured to "bestow a vast quantity of abuse on the British members of the Commission for the suppression of the slave trade." (p. 7.)

3. That he sent back an official communication addressed to him by the Commissioners on the subject of the slave trade; (p. 10) being thus guilty of "a short and simple act of vulgar insult."

4. That two subsequent communications of the said gentleman, he answered by "delivering himself of a great amount of wrath and rignarole." (p. 11.)

5. That he "actually suggested the assassination of the Commissioners, for no other reason, but their hostility to the interests of this traffic." (p. 13.)

6. That in the only two cases of American vessels employed in the slave trade in which he interfered, his interference was applied in one case "illegally, and in the other untimely." (p. 27.)

7. That he had an unfortunate Emancipado woman, and "was still receiving from her, after years of service, a paltry pittance of three rials a day, from the sale of fruits, hawked

about the Havana, by this poor creature, robbed of her freedom, and the price of it thus daily pocketed by him." (p. 26.)

8. That he entertained a deliberate doubt whether the slave trade considered merely in itself, were not a positive benefit to its supposed victims, (p. 5 ; and again, p. 15 ;) and therefore, he officially recorded a predilection for its interests, (p. 7 ;) fought for it "with the indiscriminate fury of an intoxicated partizan," (p. 19 ;) and after whitewashing the strumpet's character, as last took her to his arms, (p. 13.)

It will hardly be believed, but it is a fact, that Mr. Trist's communications, some of which are, and all of which, I hope, will be published in the British papers respecting the slave trade presented to Parliament, show that the above charges are for the most part either utterly untrue, or in the highest degree exaggerated ; and that the proofs of them adduced by Dr. Madden, are such distortions, truncations, and false combinations of what Mr. Trist has said, that if a man in the ordinary relations of life, had been guilty of a like fraud, and were brought before a New-England jury, he would stand a fair chance of spending a few years of his life in a penitentiary.

In the first place, Mr. Trist has not bestowed any unmeasured reproach on the British Government, nor in fact any reproach beyond that which some of her own most distinguished citizens have done. As a democrat he is not peculiarly well affected to a country in which the aristocracy has so much sway ; nor, impressed as he is, and we all are, with the importance of national independence, can he feel any extraordinary attachment to a power which seems to trample on the internal rights of other, and especially weaker nations. The Duke of Wellington's speech on the act for the seizure of Portuguese vessels and his protest against it, will bear Mr. Trist out in saying that she has done so.

Secondly. Of the British Commissioners in Havana, Mr. Trist certainly speaks warmly ; but they had previously, as we shall see, insulted him. Moreover, he, the bitter enemy of deception, never could be expected to show much consideration towards persons whom he conscientiously, though perhaps erroneously, thought mere actors in a solemn farce, by which they delude their countrymen and feather their own nests.

Thirdly. The tables will be sadly turned, when we consider "the short and simple act of vulgar insult" which Dr. Madden says Mr. Trist practised, when he returned a communication addressed to him by the Commissioners. That communication was subscribed by Dr. Madden, then acting arbitrator, and his colleague. The following is a copy of it : —

His Majesty's Commissioners to the American Consul.

HAVANA, 17th October, 1836.

SIR, — We have the honor to acquaint you with the following circumstances as being intimately connected with your consulate and the flag of your country, *which it will be our painful duty to report to His Majesty's Government.*

During the month of September there arrived at this port for sale, from the United States, four new schooners, we believe two from New York and two from Baltimore, all however built at the latter place, viz: the *Anaconda*, *Viper*, *Emanuel*, and *Dolores*, especially constructed and peculiarly fitted for carrying on the Slave Trade. The two former of these vessels, having received on board from the French house of Forcade & Co., a cargo, which by the Treaty of the 28th June, 1835, would have condemned as a Slaver any vessel bearing Spanish colors, cleared out and sailed under the American flag, the *Anaconda* on the 6th, and the *Viper* on the 10th inst. for the Cape de Verdes, there to be transferred to a Portuguese subject, and to proceed with the flag of that nation to the coast of Africa upon a slaving enterprise. The protection which these schooners will receive from the American colors, both as regards their fitting and cargo, will effectually secure them against capture by His Majesty's cruisers until they arrive at the scene of their depredations. The *Emanuel* and *Dolores* have we believe left the port under the Spanish flag. But we have also to inform you that some short time since, the brig *Martha* of Portland, which arrived here from Matanzas, took on board, in this harbor, a cargo which would equally have confiscated as a Slaver, any Spanish vessel, and sailed direct for the coast of Africa, to deliver it at some of the numerous factories or dens of infamy established there in connexion with the Slave Traders of Havana.

The facilities thus afforded by the flag of the United States for carrying on this inhuman traffic could never, we feel convinced, have been contemplated by your enlightened government; however, we do not entertain the least doubt, but that a knowledge of the above circumstances will instantly produce measures calculated to remedy so deplorable and flagrant a profanation of the American colors, especially as during the period that these schooners were taking in their cargoes the harbor was visited by American men-of-war, which, had any convention existed between the two governments such as has been acceded to by almost every other maritime power, a seizure of the most important nature, as regards these iniquitous expeditions, must have been effected. We have, &c.

Can any thing be more insulting or foolish than this letter? It begins by what may almost be called a threat to report Mr. Trist and his countrymen to the English Government! to report citizens of the United States to the King of Great Britain! Men who know our extreme sensibility on the subject of national independence, natural and becoming to a young country, which has so recently achieved its liberty, and that this sensibility is more peculiarly called into action, when an invasion of that national independence is even hinted at by subjects of that power from whose dominion we have emancipated ourselves, will not wonder at Mr. Trist's excitement on reading this letter, more especially as the Commissioners go on to launch out, into an absurd charge against American vessels for carrying what an English vessel, in spite of the United States, might carry with impunity, and exhaust their superlatives in lamenting the *iniquitous expeditions*, and the *deplorable and flagrant profanation* of the American colors in the transport of merchandise, chiefly manufactured in England, to the *Dens of Infamy* on the coast of Africa. To conclude their epistle, these gentlemen at last intimate the desirableness of "a convention existing between America and Great Britain, such as has been acceded to by almost every other maritime power;" as if Dr. Madden and Mr. Trist were likely to bring about an arrangement which Sir Stratford Canning and Mr. Adams, Mr. Addison and Mr. Clay, Sir Charles Vaughan and Mr. McLane and Mr. Forsyth and other distinguished negotiators had attempted in vain to conclude.

Now for Mr. Trist's answer. It was not rude, nor vulgar, nor insulting, nor indignant as Dr. Madden asserts. It was what a gentleman, such as Mr. Trist, might be expected to write. But it shall speak for itself. Here it is:—

Mr. Trist to H. M. Commissioners.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES, }
HAYANA, 29TH NOVEMBER, 1836. }

GENTLEMEN,—On my return to this city a few days since from the United States, I had the honor to receive your letter of the 17th ult., which would have been sooner acknowledged had not matters of more immediate urgency prevented my bestowing upon it the full consideration, which, at a glance the importance of its bearings was seen to require.

It has probably escaped your attention, that overtures, previously made, for a convention of the character referred to in the closing paragraph of your letter, were more recently repeated by H. B. M. Minister at Washington, and there declined by the Government of the United States in a manner evincing

the most decided disinclination to become a party to even any discussion whatever of the subject.

Had this been adverted to, you would have been sensible that, besides the general objection to my holding with any agent of a foreign government any correspondence not warranted by the very limited official character with which I am invested, the occurrence to which I refer has rendered it particularly incumbent on me, to decline receiving any communication of the nature of that which I now beg leave to return. I have, &c.

Such was "the short and simple act of vulgar insult." Against whom, Sir, does the charge lie?

Fourthly. With the subsequent correspondence between Mr. Trist and H. B. M. Commissioners, as far as the commission is concerned, Dr. Madden has nothing to do. It has been a fraud on the part of the latter to suffer himself to be paraded about the United States, as a member of that court. He is not and never was one, except for a short time, as a *locum tenens*; and Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Dalrymple, the present judge and arbitrator, if they have complaints against Mr. Trist for delivering himself of so much "wrath and rigmarole," will know how to urge them better than Dr. Madden.

Fifthly. The charge of Mr. Trist's having *actually suggested the assassination of the Commissioners* is one of so atrocious a nature, that none but a thoroughly bad man would bring it forward against his neighbor, without having the clearest proof of its being true. What then shall we think of Dr. Madden, when we establish the fact of this charge being not more atrocious, than false? The remark which Dr. Madden has quoted from Mr. Trist in proof of his base assertion, (pamphlet, p. 13,) as to the re-awakening of the old Guerilla spirit among the Spaniards, caused by the interference of Great Britain and her agents, with the national independence of Spain, is no "*suggestion*," of either one kind or other. It is a simple statement of the necessary consequences of a foreign power endeavoring, and more especially in an insulting way, to force laws on a people like the Spaniards. It is a simple description of what has taken, and what could not but take place, as the result of such an attempt.

Those who were opposed to the slave trade became, Mr. Trist shows, from patriotism, pseudo-patriotism if you like, its friends; landed proprietors of high name and feeling, who were against it, its supporters; and, as the commissioners observed in a despatch to their government, such a state of things was brought about "that there scarcely now exists an indi-

vidual in the Island who would not do his utmost to sustain it." "The conviction of many," as Mr. Trist well remarks, "may be against the slave trade; the feelings of their bosoms towards the man capable of engaging therein, might prompt them to hang the offender. But they have had awakened in them a strong overpowering sense of the fact, that this cannot be done without bowing the neck to foreign made, and foreign imposed law. This comes over them, and every duty is in their view as nothing before the one duty of defiance; every feeling is overwhelmed in its angry surges." A Guerilla spirit is kindled up, and if so frightful an issue as that described by a British agent in Brazil, "where the enemy of the slave trade had to dread the assassin's knife even in the open day, and in the public gaze," need not be apprehended here, the fact arises perhaps solely from the better state of the police, or the greater insignificance of those who oppose the traffic. These are matters of history. As such they are stated by Mr. Trist, and he who perverts that gentleman's meaning, and denounces him as the instigator, or suborner of assassins, is one whom every honest man would do well to avoid meeting in the dark.

Sixthly. Dr. Madden says that Mr. Trist interfered only in two cases of vessels employed, or intended to be employed, in the slave trade. The one the case of the *Venus*, the other of the *Thomas of Havana*; for this, though Dr. Madden does not mention her name, was the only vessel ever placed in the circumstances which he describes. Now a greater proof of complete ignorance there never was given, than that given by Dr. Madden, in reference to these two cases. In the first, that of the *Venus*, Mr. Trist did not interfere at all. The *Venus* came in, was sold, and went out an American vessel. It is probable that she afterwards returned as the Portuguese ship *Duquesa de Braganza*, after landing slaves. But Mr. Trist was not Portuguese Consul, he had no control over her as a Portuguese; and an American she no longer was. He did not therefore, I repeat, interfere at all. In the other case, the *Thomas of Havana*, he did, and did most effectually; for by his detention of her, and subsequently by refusing altogether to recognise as Americans, vessels having only sea-passes, not registers, thus giving vigor to a law which the clearing officers in the United States seemed to have overlooked, he frustrated a cunningly devised plan of the slave traders for employing the American flag to a greater extent for their unworthy purposes. The case of the *Thomas of Havana*, may elucidate my assertion. This vessel was once the *General Espartero*, a Spanish craft. Her owner, wishing to employ her under the

colors of the United States, sent her with a worthless fellow called Howell, (who has since been a coadjutor of Mr. Fernando Clark and Dr. Madden, in their clamors against Mr. Trist,) to Key West; there she was sold to him, and came back as his property, to load for Africa. The intention was, that on arriving there, she should take Spanish or Portuguese colors for her return, and on reaching this place, should again go to Key West, and again be made an American, once more to pursue her nefarious traffic, and so on, as long as she might last, or not be captured. The same plan was intended to be pursued with the *Comhita*, *Amable Salomé*, and others; but Mr. Trist, knowing their infamous intentions, caused the *Thomas of Havana*, to be seized by an American man-of-war, though he knew it was a "*coup de force*," which international law would hardly justify; —and by this blow, and by his subsequent refusal to clear any vessels without registers, *prevented a fraud which would otherwise have contributed very materially to slave trading*. The collectors of American Custom-houses, and other Consuls, though not with a bad intention, but inconsiderately, gave such clearances; whilst Mr. Trist, scrupulously anxious to execute the laws of his country, refused to do it, though bribes after bribes were offered him. — And this is the man whom Dr. Madden sets down as a poor, mercenary encourager of the slave trade.

I now come to the emancipated negroes. The story Dr. Madden tells about them as a class, is in the main correct. They who ought, in justice, at the term of their apprenticeship, to have been made free, have been of late consigned, at prices which constitute a sale, to a longer continuance of bondage, perhaps to a life of slavery. It is unfortunate for Dr. Madden, the sole object of whose pamphlet is to criminate us Americans, that in a communication published in the parliamentary papers, he has declared that several were so bought for British miners in Cuba; but it is still more unfortunate for the Secretary of the British Commissioners, that Dr. Madden has thought fit to lug him into the affair, because though he is a nice, genteel young man, whose feelings I should be sorry to hurt, yet as he is set up as the one sole example of an individual who has "obtained the freedom" of a captured negro put out to apprenticeship by the Spanish Government, I am obliged to state his case. Mr. Jackson, for such is the name of the gentleman, had four Africans so given to him. Of these, the one that Dr. Madden mentions went with him to England on a visit, and was brought back by him. I suspect that it is, therefore, quite as well for Mr. Jackson, that he has since obtained from the

favor of the authorities, the freedom of the boy ; otherwise on returning home without him, he might have found his own freedom in jeopardy. Of his other three Emancipados he will no doubt be able to give a satisfactory account ; though if called on to do so, he may perhaps regret having had so indiscreet a panegyrist as Dr. Madden.

Mr. Trist's is a very different case. The person he took, having received instruction as a washerwoman, was employed in that capacity first in his house, and then in that of an exceedingly kind-hearted American or English widow, well known among the foreigners here, for the meritorious manner in which, by the hard work of her hands, she has earned an honest livelihood, and decently brought up her large family of orphans. To this poor woman the washing of Mr. Trist's household was given, and with it the services of the apprentice, without compensation. After the departure of his family, the negro-woman preferring the occupation of selling fruit in the street to that of the wash-tub, proposed to be allowed to pursue it as the greatest favor she could receive. Her wish was acceded to ; and her wages, *fixed by herself*, are brought in weekly ; sometimes in full, sometimes in part only. Of whatever amount she brings in, she has invariably received the portion requisite for supplying her with cigars and the little luxuries, which are all these light-hearted creatures require to fill their measure of content. The remainder is laid up as a store for her, which is diminished only by what is requisite to clothe her. He derives no benefit from her services, he keeps her only from compassion and kind feelings. Her liberty, before her apprenticeship is out, he cannot give her. To return her to the government would be to perpetuate her slavery. He therefore leaves her in that situation which she has herself chosen until the period arrives in which she may by law become free. How cruel ! how unmad-denlike !

I now come to Dr. Madden's 8th and last charge against Mr. Trist. It must be divided into two parts. The one is, that Mr. Trist entertains a deliberate doubt whether the slave trade, *considered merely in itself*, is not a positive benefit to its supposed victims. This is, perhaps, the only true statement in the whole of Dr. Madden's letter. Mr. Trist does entertain such a doubt ; and a great many other persons, much more ultra than Mr. Trist in their objections to the slave trade, entertain it too ; — and perhaps most people who know the state of Africa do. There are in fact Englishmen and women, who have visited the West Indies, that consider the state of the slaves happier than that of Europeans, much more of

Africans. Mrs. Carmichael tells us "that an industrious slave can, by extra work, save £30 sterling a year with ease, besides procuring many luxuries and plenty of fine dresses for himself, his wife and his children." Mr. M. G. Lewis, the kindest hearted creature in the world, and certainly not favorable to slavery, said, so long ago as 1815, "If asked whether I chose to enter life anew as an English laborer or a Jamaica negro, I should have no hesitation in preferring the latter;" and a distinguished member of the British House of Lords, at a much earlier period declared, that "the felicity of the negroes of the West Indies was such, that he could not but speak of it in terms of rapture, and he should exceedingly rejoice if an English day-laborer were but half as happy." I think then that I may admit, that Mr. Trist has doubts whether the Africans at home or here are happier. This is not one of those opinions for which Mr. Madden and his friends will immolate him. He, Mr. Trist, has this opinion, and so have I, and so have many abolitionists.

But, to come to the second part of the charge, shall it therefore be said, that we are friends of the slave trade? We abhor the slave trade, not because it renders those Africans who are introduced here as slaves less happy than they would be at home, but among many other reasons, because we deem it the chief obstacle to the civilization of Africa; because we consider it as increasing in this western world the numbers of a race which can never amalgamate with ours; and above all, because we detest slavery under whatever shape it may come before us. Dr. Madden's tale of Mr. Trist's predilection for the slave trade is altogether feigned, still more so the story of his indiscriminate fury and intolerant partizanship in its favor; of which not one word appears even in his letter of two hundred and seventy-six pages, the *length of which so amuses our author*. But the most absurd of all the Doctor's imaginings is that, in which he figures to himself the traffic as a lascivious female, and speaks of her in such terms, that we might suppose him seized with a fit of amatory ardor, as were not exactly to be expected from a scripture-quoting gentleman, had we not the assurance of no mean authority that "the devil quoted scripture like other learned clerks."

I have now done with Dr. Madden's complaints, and I will begin with my own. I complain then, sir,—

First. That merchants of respectable standing in Baltimore, and likewise in other ports, having received orders for building vessels for slave traders, have had such vessels registered in

their own name ; thus giving to those vessels a fraudulent character — and in a measure participating in the slave trade.

This happened, I suspect, in the case of the *Venus* constructed expressly for Mr. Mazorra ; the *Centipede* and *Wasp*, built for Mr. Martinez or Mr. Terran ; and many other clippers, bona fide the property of Spanish merchants at the time of their leaving Baltimore, though when they arrived here still retaining the ostensible ownership of the seller.

I complain, secondly, of the merchants in Baltimore building vessels suitable for no other purpose but the slave trade, and sending them out here for sale, knowing the purpose to which they would be applied. Among many such cases I think I may safely name the *Hound*, the *Jack Wilding*, the *William Bayard*, the *Elvina*, the *Lark*, the *Nymph*, the *Asp*, the *Mary Cushing*, and the *Mary Ann Casard*.

I complain, thirdly, of their selling such vessels deliverable on the coast of Africa, part of the purchase money being payable only after such a delivery ; a plan adopted solely for the security of the slave trade against British interference. Under this head I need only name the *Catherine*.

I complain, fourthly, that American shipmasters, who have scruples about going themselves to the coast of Africa, nevertheless come here, dispose of their vessels to slave traders, put in their own mates as masters and ostensible owners, and thus fraudulently preserve to the craft the use of the American flag. Such happened, among other instances, in the case of the *Elvina*.

I complain, fifthly, that these same mates, made masters, not only take out their vessels to the coast, but after the flag is changed, return with them as ostensible passengers, but really navigate the ship when laden with slaves. I again cite the case of the *Elvina*, and

Lastly, I complain of American merchants here selling vessels in the way mentioned under the second and third of these heads : thus, conniving at and participating in the slave trade ; and I mention as vessels thus disposed of, the *Rebecca*, cleared for Gallinas in January, 1839, and the *Wyoming*, cleared for Africa in March of the same year ; *both consigned to Mr. Ferdinand Clark, and sold by him*, just at the period when he and Dr. Madden were plotting Mr. Trist's downfall in the way mentioned in the note 4.

These are the complaints I would bring before the public. I know not how the evils are to be remedied, but I trust in part to the wisdom of Congress, acting on the communications and suggestions of Mr. Trist, and in part, sir, to you, who in that

heart-stirring language, so peculiarly at your command, must enforce on our countrymen, the iniquity of aiding and abetting the cruel traffic, and engage them, if not from motives of justice and humanity, at least for the honor of the nation, the first to abolish the slave trade, to sacrifice their corrupt gains on the altar of patriotism.

But I have been led too far. I have written too much at length. Many will not wade through my pages; and for these I must recapitulate their contents.

I did not begin with a division of my subject, I will end with it. I have treated it under four heads. In the first, I have shown that Dr. Madden's testimony was such, that it ought to be received with suspicion. In the second, that his assumptions, twelve in number, were unfounded. In the third, that his charges against Mr. Trist, and through him, against our country and government, were equally so; and in the fourth, having admitted that certain American citizens have been, and are engaged, to a limited degree in the slave trade, without either the government or the Consul, under the existing state of the laws being able to prevent it, I have expressed a hope, that such changes will be made in these laws as were recommended by the President recently, and the Consul at a more remote period, with a view to obviate the evil as far as laws can do it. And lastly, I have invited you to make such an appeal to the community as may engage their sympathies in the cause of humanity and their country.

A CALM OBSERVER.

APPENDIX.

NOTE I.

I have no knowledge of Arabic; but one of my friends who has, assures me, that Dr. Madden, in his "Travels in the East," has been guilty of errors, which prove his entire ignorance of that language. "Dr. Madden," he observes, "uses the expressions '*Allah wakbar*,' (vol. i. p. 4, and vol. ii. p. 275.) '*Allah wachbar*,' (vol. ii. p. 19,) which he translates 'there was but one God,' 'there is only one God.' He no doubt means '*Allahou akbarren*,' or '*Allah akbar*,' 'God is the greatest;' a common Arabic exclamation. And again Dr. Madden says, — '*Mashalla*,' 'How wonderful is God,' (vol. i. p. 17) — '*Mashallah*,' 'God is great,' (vol. i. p. 243) — '*Mashalla*,' 'How very fine,' (vol. iii. p. 246.) no doubt meaning '*ma sha Allah*,' 'whatever God pleases.' And again, '*Allah kharim*,' (vol. i. p. 43, vol. i. p. 225.) 'God is great;' '*Allah karim*,' (vol. ii. p. 275,) 'God is most merciful,' which should be '*Allah Karim*,' 'God is generous.' Once more, '*Elb sukhne kiter*,' (vol. i. p. 233,) meant for '*Elb sukhun kathiran*,' and '*Mafish dowra*,' (vol. i. p. 120.) really '*ma fithsheyi dawca*.'

"His quotations," my friend adds, "are few, but all erroneous, and show him to be as great a quack in learning, as he is in medicine." "Will you believe it," he concludes, "this famous '*Hakkin*,' is the M. D. of a German university, which he never saw, and the thesis for which his degree was conferred, is his celebrated treatise on 'The Infirmities of Genius' ? ! ! What humbug."

NOTE II.

Extracts from the London Quarterly Review of Oct. 1833

The Infirmities of Genius, illustrated by referring the Anomalies of the Literary Character to the Habits and Constitutional Peculiarities of Men of Genius. By R. R. Madden, Esq., Author of "Travels in Turkey." 2 vols. London. 1833.

Our readers will recollect that, on our examination of Mr. Madden's "Travels in Turkey," we saw reason to suspect that he was superficial, inaccurate, and presumptuous — that on his *assertions* a very qualified reliance should be placed, and on his *inferences* — none. This work justifies all those opinions. * * * In general learning he seems to be below what is called a smatterer, and the turn of his mind is evidently neither accurate in observation, precise in distinction, sagacious in analysis, nor comprehensive in synthetical combination. We suspect that he is little versed in medical, and still less in moral, philosophy; and though his pages are illustrated with great names and copious quotations, he gives us the impression of knowing of the men and the books he mentions little more than the name.

We may here observe, also, that the title-page affords us a curious specimen of the author's scholarship: his motto is, "Qui ratione corporis non habent, sed cogunt mortalem immortalis, terrestrem æthera equalem prestare industriam:" and for this sentence he refers us to *PLUTARCH de Sanitate tuenda*. We should lay no stress on the mere *press-errors* of this and almost every other classical quotation in the book, if they were not so *general* that it is impossible they can be merely accidental: but does Mr. Madden suppose that Plutarch is a *Latin* author? and if not, why does he give us this barbarous mutilation of Nylander's very indifferent translation of Plutarch's *Ἐπειὴ Πρωτογέρουατα*? While we are on the subject of quotations, we may as well dispose at once of Mr. Madden's pretensions to classical learning, on which, from his frequent and ambitious display of it, we presume he sets great value, and of which, therefore, he would not forgive us if we did not take some little notice. Plutarch, we have seen, appears in the new character of a writer of very bad Latin. Sophocles, who has hitherto passed for a Greek tragedian, was it seems of the same school:—

"Sophocles has lauded the beatitude of ignorance. '*Nihil scire vita jucundissima*.'" — vol. i. p. 37.

The distribution of the following lines leads us to suppose, that Mr. Madden fancies that some of the poetical works of Tacitus have been preserved, though we doubt whether Mr. Madden himself could ascertain the metre:—

"In large cities, at least, literature occupies the ground which politics and scandal keep possession of in small ones; in the time of Tacitus the evil was common to the communities of both:—

*Vitium parvis magnisque civitatibus commune
Ignorantium et invidiarum.*" — vol. i. p. 23.

Every schoolboy knows the passage in the introduction of the Life of Agricola, which, by misunderstanding and mis-printing, our "learned Theban" has produced in this strange form. But if he exhibits Tacitus in verse, he balances the account by quoting "an excellent old author," who turns Horace into prose:—

"Like those poets who will throw you off a hundred verses, '*stantes in pede uno*,' as Horace has it" — (vol. i. p. 79.) — rather, we should have said, as Horace has it *not*.

"Ovid and Horace," he says, "afford specimens of self-complacency, '*exegi monumentum æri perennius*.'" — '*Jamque opus exegi quod nec Jovis ira,*'" &c. — vol. ii. p. 143.

So — *referendo singula singulis* — Ovid may be supposed to be the author of the former boast, and Horace of the latter. The following passage is of a higher flight both of English eloquence and classical Latinity. He denounces (alluding to the posthumous publication of some of Lord Byron's satirical *jeux d'esprit*.) "the deep, deliberate malignity of the literary jackal that steals away the provender of the mangled '*disjecta membra humanitatis*' for the '*omni vorantia et homicida gula*' of the savage community of his own species." — vol. i. p. 187.

We say nothing of the new reading of *membra* for *membra*, or of *omni* for we suppose *omnia*, but we wish that Dr. Madden had named the author to whom we are indebted for the latter quotation, which enriches the Latin language with the two adjectives which we do not recollect to have met elsewhere, — *vorantius*, *vorantio*, *vorantium*, and *homicidus*, *homicida*, *homicidum*! — and, lest this choice scrap of erudition should be mistaken for the error of the printer, Mr. Madden carefully repeats the quotation "*omni vorantia gula*" in another place — vol. i. p. 271.

From such blunders as these, we are obliged to conclude, that although Mr. Madden quotes, or we should rather say misquotes, very ostentatiously, Sophocles, Plato, Xenophon, Hippocrates, Plautus, Horace, Ovid, Tacitus, Martial, St. Augustine, Ficinus, Plinius (*Plinius*), and the "*Sieur Nylander*," (*Nylander*) he knows nothing of them beyond their names (and not always their names), and some extracts which he has picked up in other writers, and which, without thoroughly understanding, he has transferred, for the most part in a mangled and corrupted shape, into his own pages.

His chief, if not only source, is old Burton, who being generally so obliging as to give translations of what he quotes, is an invaluable repertorium to one who would be a scholar, with "small Latin and no Greek." Him, Mr. Madden plunders as profusely, though not quite so aptly as did Squire Shandy, and his friend Dr. Slop. We select two or three instances out of fifty:—

"Surely," says Ficinus, "scholars are the most foolish men in the world — other men look to their tools," &c. — vol. i. p. 39.

This translation from Ficinus is taken without acknowledgment from Burton, vol. i. p. 187, Svo. ed. 1801.

"Æneas Sylvius says he knew many scholars in his time, excellent, well-learned men, but so rude," &c. — vol. i. p. 163.

This passage from Æneas Sylvius is to be found in Burton, vol. i. p. 190.

"Those *labores hilares venandi*," as Camden terms the field-sports of *Staffordshire*," — vol. ii. p. 217.

One wonders why this phrase should be more especially applied to field-sports in *Staffordshire*, than in *Derbyshire* or *Devonshire*; but what Camden says is, that the gentry in the neighborhood of Needwood forest (which happens to be in *Staffordshire*) pursued there the *hilares venandi labores*. Mr. Madden, we dare say, never saw Camden, but he found the quotation itself in the text of Burton, vol. i. p. 401, and in the marginal reference, "*Camden, in Staffordshire*," and so, "from text and margin," compounded his own exhibition of learning.

Again — when he wishes to describe a pleasant walk, he talks with great pomp of "*Deanabulation per amœna loca*," vol. ii. p. 245. This quotation he finds also in Burton, vol. i. p. 407.

And to conclude this chapter, Burton, having occasion to quote the celebrated passage in the 6th *Æneid* —

"*Pallentesque habitant morbi*," &c.

chose to alter some words to suit the subject in hand; and behold, Mr. Madden, thinking proper to use the same quotation (Burton having kindly supplied him with a translation,) copies, still without notice or acknowledgment, Burton's *cento* instead of Virgil's original! In short, we really have never seen so flagrant a case of plagiarism, presumption, and ignorance, as Mr. Madden's pretence to classical learning.

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The main body of the work proceeds in a style of vague, inconsistent, and often contradictory trivialities, which we sometimes do not comprehend — often cannot reconcile with the preceding or following sentences — and never can reduce into any general and satisfactory course of statement or reasoning.

It is in his preliminary chapter that we naturally seek the object of his work. We look, and see nothing but detached common-places, which, without acumen or consideration, are laid down as axioms, on which it seems he intended to erect a super-structure, but which, we find in the progress of the work, are quite incapable of carrying even their own weight. * * *

All Mr. Madden's examples happen, ridiculously enough, to contradict, in a very striking manner, the assertion by which he introduces them.

But as he proceeds, he plunges into still deeper inconsistency. He is very severe on the biographers of literary men: —

"We find that its ashes are hardly cold, before its frailties are raked up from the tomb and baited at the ring of biography, till the public taste is satiated with the sport." — vol. i. pp. 4, 5.

"But when biography is made the vehicle, not only of private scandal but of that minor malignity of truth, which holds, as it were, a magnifying mirror to every naked imperfection of humanity, which possibly had never been discovered had no friendship been violated, no confidence been abused, and no errors exaggerated by the medium through which they have been viewed, it ceases to be a legitimate inquiry into private character or public conduct, and no infamy is comparable to that of magnifying the faults, or libelling the fame of the illustrious dead." * * * "In a word, that species of

biography which is written for contemporaries, and not for posterity, is worse than worthless. It would be well for the memory of many recent authors if their injudicious friends had made a simple obituary serve the purpose of a history." — pp. 10, 11.

Now would any one believe from this indignant exordium that three-fourths of Mr. Madden's own book consist of "the raking up of all the frailties," of all "the private scandal," of all "the magnifying of imperfections" with which Pope, Johnson, Burns, Cowper, and Byron have been "baited in the ring of biography," and that Mr. Madden has *himself* supplied as many of such details concerning Sir Walter Scott as he could collect, even to the violation (in so recent a case) of all feeling and decency, by copying loose newspaper tattle about the *post mortem* appearances of his brain!! In short, Mr. Madden's philosophical treatise is little else than a repetition and amplification of the very small and dirty gossip which he so severely censures, and which he applies to the most offensive and uncharitable purposes.

Of Pope, Mr. Madden begins by undertaking a defence against the observations of Mr. Bowles, whom he censures very severely for his alleged depreciation of the bard's moral and poetical character; and then he proceeds with the most astonishing thoughtlessness (another word would suit the case better — but we refrain) to collect from every scattered expression and every loose observation of all Pope's biographers, a combination of bad qualities of which Mr. Bowles's picture gives but a very faint idea. * * * But poor Mr. Madden is still more bewildered by Johnson than by Pope. * * *

There is hardly an instance amongst his innumerable larcenies from Boswell, in which Mr. Madden does not in this manner misquote and misapply — and indeed these alterations of the authors he quotes, and these distortions of their meanings, are almost the only exertion of his own mind which we can discover in the whole work. And, after all, what is the object of the three-score pages, in which Mr. Madden has caricatured Dr. Johnson? why, to prove that he was *hypochondriac* — a fact which Boswell distinctly states in the very first pages of his work — adding, what we wish Mr. Madden had remembered: — "Let not little men triumph upon knowing that Dr. Johnson was an *HYPOCHONDRIAC*!" *Croker's Boswell*, vol. i. p. 36. So that instead of quoting and misquoting so many passages, which really prove nothing, he might have adduced the clear admission of the fact. Aye, but then how should he have filled up the three-score pages of his catchpenny?

After such examples of extravagant absurdity, we shall decline pursuing Mr. Madden through his long and desultory account of the *infirmities* of Cowper and Byron, which he has, with no amiable industry, selected from their various biographers, adding nothing of his own but the coarseness of his expression, and the confusion and contradiction of his deductions. But as to Sir Walter Scott, so long our friend and fellow-laborer, we must say a few reluctant words: — We were at first at a loss to know how *he* was to be made an example of the *infirmities of genius*, and for what purpose Mr. Madden could have introduced him. We are now satisfied that we have discovered his reason — and, for him, a very good reason too — to help to sell his book! So blameless a character — a death so recent — the undried tears of children — the still bleeding sorrow of friends — might have appeared to most men sufficient reasons for excluding Sir Walter Scott from so early and so cruel an examination — even if he had legitimately fallen within the general scope of the work: but Mr. Madden seems to have felt no such compunctious visitings of nature — at least they vanished before the spirit of book-making; and the recent death, the grief of children and friends, and the regrets of the world at large, have no doubt appeared to the worthy author fortunate and opportune circumstances, well-fitted to extend — *the sale of his work!*

We will follow Mr. Madden no further in personal details. Indeed, we

doubt whether we have not already gone too far, and whether it was necessary to have said more than that the anecdotes which he has compiled of the several illustrious individuals introduced in these impudent chapters, are in themselves for the most part *trivial, erroneous, and uncharitable*; and, as regards Mr. Madden, they are generally *misquoted, misstated, misapprehended, and misapplied*!!!

NOTE III. (omitted).

NOTE IV.

In the beginning of December, 1838, there arrived here from Baltimore, the fast sailing schooner *Rebecca*, F. Neil, master, to the consignment of Ferdinand Clark, on whose authority she was stated in the weekly report of the 12th of January, 1839, published in this city, as "sold." But no sale took place at the American Consulate. There the master only was changed, one George Watson being substituted for F. Neil; and on the 21st of January, 1839, she cleared for Gallinas, the famous slave market near Sierra Leone. To the consignment of the same Clark, a person well known in Boston, there arrived on the 2d January, 1839, the fast sailing brig *Wyoming*, N. Christopher, master. This vessel began to load for New Orleans. She took in goods for that place; but Clark finding a buyer for her, these goods were transferred to another vessel, a new master, one John C. Edwards, was appointed, and about the 8th of March, 1839, off she too went for Africa, without any sale taking place at the Consulate. This is the vessel afterwards captured and sent to New York by H. B. M. brig *Buzzard*.

Whilst these things were going on, which could not be unknown to Dr. Madden, and indeed up to the time of his departure, in the beginning of October, 1839, he was acting in other matters in concert with Clark, as may be inferred from the following letter, extracted from the *New York Journal of Commerce* of the 21st November, 1839.

DR. MADDEN AND THE AMERICAN PRISONERS AT HAVANA.

Dr. R. R. Madden, an English gentleman, who, we believe, is connected with the Mixed Commission at Havana, and who recently arrived here from that city, deserves the thanks of our countrymen for the active interest he took in behalf of several seamen of the American ship *William Engs*, now confined as criminals in the Cabanas prison at Havana. The annexed letter from Dr. Madden, we find in the *New Orleans American*:

Havana, 6th Sept. 1839.

Dear Sir, — In reply to your letter of this morning's date, respecting the steps taken by me to procure the liberation and otherwise assist the men of the *William Engs*, I comply with your request, though unwilling to have to speak of any trifling efforts of mine in their behalf.

In the month of February last, I heard of eight or nine men, speaking our language, and, consequently, either English or Americans, being in the Cabanas, worked in chains with the other felons in that place. I went the following day to ascertain the truth of this account, accompanied by Mr. Norman. I found the men alluded to breaking stones in the *broiling sun about noonday*. — I think this party consisted of nine men; six of these told me they were Englishmen, one a Swede, and two were Americans. They all said, however, they had come here in American vessels as sailors. They were all remarkably well-behaved, decent looking men. They were in rags, and, with one or two exceptions, without shoes, the want of which they complained of greatly; — they all looked sickly and sorrowful enough; and the hardships they were undergoing, and the despair of ever getting out of the Cabanas, were sufficient to make them so. I then gave them what assistance I could afford, and promised not to lose sight of them.

They said they had nothing to expect from any other quarter; they had received some time before three or four pair of shoes from the American

Consul, but they had been worn out long ago. They had been in the Cabanas six months, and were condemned to different terms of imprisonment, and hard labor of two, four, and six years. It was quite evident to me as a medical man, from their looks and evident exhaustion, not one of the party would reach the end of the two, four and six years' labor, under the burning sun of Cuba; some of them, indeed, would not live the winter out. I determined to do all in my power to get them out, whether they were Englishmen or Americans; they were strangers, and were in trouble, and as far as I could learn, there was no one to get them out of it; and this was quite enough for any person of common feeling, who might have seen them in the situation I did. At that time there were two British vessels of the line here. I immediately waited upon Capt. Henderson, of the Edinburgh, the senior captain, and begged him to apply for their liberation. He promised me, after stating some difficulties, to do so. However, in a couple of days, I found Capt. Henderson had been making inquiries respecting these men of the William Engs, and had got a very bad account of them. I know not from whom. Moreover, he was informed, they were by no means in so bad a state as I had represented—that they had received clothing from the American Consul. It vexed me a good deal to find what trouble had been taken to prepossess Capt. Henderson against these poor men. However, I did not leave him till I prevailed on him to present a memorial to the Captain-General, in their behalf: that is to say, of those who were Englishmen, for there would have been an impropriety in applying for the others formally. However, in his letter to the Captain-General, I begged of him to state to the Captain-General that two men who were not English—the Swede and the American, Isaac Clark, though not named in the memorial, were of the same party of the William Engs, and that it would be a hardship if the others were liberated and they were left. I then made out a memorial for them and sent it to Capt. Henderson. The only apprehension he now had was on account of the bad character he got of these men. In fact, I feared his disinclination to taking them on board on this account, would prevent the memorial being sent.

I therefore wrote to him on the 5th of March in these terms—"If you think the service will not allow you to take these men on board your vessel, should they be liberated, I will undertake to send them to America; and, to remove any apprehension of the Captain-General, as to their being at large before an opportunity offers to remove them, I will answer for their being closely kept till a vessel is found to send them away. Still, however, I greatly hope there may be no impediment to their being allowed to enter the service on their liberation. I am quite certain that an application from you to the Captain-General, would be considered as a matter that his Excellency would be pleased to oblige you in acceding to. These poor people begged me hard to plead for them with you, and how can I plead for them better than by putting their memorial into your hands?" The memorial was kindly sent, with a very strong letter, by Capt. Henderson, to the Captain-General, and the result was the abridgment of the term of confinement—one third of the time they were sentenced to was taken off. This was not doing a great deal—it was something, however, and I resolved in a short time to make another similar application.

The thing that seemed to me now to be done was, by enabling these men to procure some better diet than the prison allowance, and also better clothing to sustain life, and give them a better chance, at all events, of surviving through the summer. What my means allowed me to do, I did from time to time. I sent clothing for all, so far as shirts, shoes, trousers, &c., and when I found the expense press a little too much on me, I raised a small subscription of about an ounce (\$17) a month, for whatever term they might remain in confinement. I paid them the first month's subscription, and before the next came due, they were released by the exertions, I believe, chiefly of yourself. Whatever assistance they got from me, I beg distinctly to tell you, whether in clothes or money, by my written directions, was shared amongst all, English and Americans alike, as you will find by the two documents I send you, namely, the receipt for the clothes signed by Broadfoot, and by a copy of my note to him.

I send these because I heard from you that Clark had stated Broadfoot had not shared the things by my directions, and farther in proof, such not being the case, I send you Broadfoot's letter to me respecting the money and clothing in question, and that which Capt. Babbit raised for them. I think it would have been detestable to have made any difference in such a case. What did it matter to me where these men were born? I knew where they would have died, as I thought, if I had not interfered for them.

Yours, very truly,

R. R. MADDEN.

TO FERDINAND CLARK, Esq. Havana.

How came it about, now, that so immaculate a person as Dr. Madden should be on terms of "Dear Sirring" a man like Clark, just after the latter had been connected with the business of the Wyoming and Rebecca? Was it that the all-absorbing spirit of benevolence, excited by the cruel situation of the poor sailors of the William Engs, closed the Doctor's mental vision to the faults of his coadjutor in this labor of love? Or was not theirs rather the sympathy of evil doers, bent on making a victim of one whom they united in hating?

Fortunately there are circumstances connected with the affair that decide these questions. The seamen belonging to the William Engs were persons condemned to imprisonment and labor under the sentence of a Spanish court, for an outrageous mutiny on board of their vessel in the harbor of Havana. These people managed, probably because one of them was called Clark, to enlist in their favor the feelings of Mr. Ferdinand; who, it seems, is peculiarly well affected towards all who bear his name. He, Clark, therefore resolved to pet these scoundrels, and finding that Mr. Trist (though from motives of compassion, not justice, exerting himself individually in their behalf,) would not act *with him* on the occasion, he united all those who were ill-disposed towards Mr. Trist, and got up a clamor against that gentleman in which he was joined by Dr. Madden, by a certain Dr. Bunstead, by Colonel Throop, an engraver, one Mr. Selden, a commander Babbit, well known in the American navy, and a few others of the same stamp.

At the very time that these mutineers were visited by Dr. Madden, there were likewise confined in the same prison several sailors belonging to the American schooner Henry Clay, men arrested for merely having pointed knives, a prohibited weapon, upon their persons; and who, for this infringement of the laws, the result of ignorance, were condemned to hard labor for six years. Of these poor fellows no one was called Clark, and they had a still greater fault, that of Mr. Trist's having, with his unusual humanity,—not that of the lips,—exerted himself to procure their liberation.

As the Henry Clay's men were confined and worked in company with the men of the William Engs, Dr. Madden had not the impudence to refuse them a part of the relief which he was commissioned to afford.

But, will it be believed? no sooner were those of the William Engs discharged from prison, than the Henry Clay's men were utterly deserted by the Doctor and his co-philanthopists! For them, poor fellows, there was no more Madden, no more Clark, no more visiting, no more wining, no more commiseration, no more old clothes. "What did it matter to him where these men were born? "He knew where they would die," and yet he forsook them without compunction! They were innocent, but the purposes for which they had become *protégés* of this Havana Howard had been fully served: the materials were secured for his tale of piteous abandonment and bounteous philanthropy; the "sickly and sorrowful" prisoners had been made all the use of against Mr. Trist that they could be: so let those of the *protégés* whose "term of imprisonment and hard labor" was the longest, who were in for "six years," perish! They had belonged, not to the ship William Engs, but to the schooner Henry Clay; *their* case afforded no pretext for representing the Consul as the author of their sufferings; so let the dogs die!

This fact speaks volumes. But there are many others of interest, in and connected with Dr. Madden's letter. Why was it not written till September, when the circumstances it referred to took place in February? Be-

cause it was not till September, that Dr. Madden had an idea of visiting the United States, where it was sent and published as an avant-courier of this "distinguished traveller," who left us for Boston in the following month; a bait thrown out to catch those who were clamoring against Mr. Trist. — a precursor of his "poem" on a "Slave-Traler," long ago written here, and only by an afterthought dedicated to our Consul, in terms as vulgar as they are false, — and an introduction to that pamphlet to which the present is a reply. But to proceed: Let us come to "the broiling sun about noon-day." This is quite theatrical; but it happens that the convicts here never work at noon-day: and moreover, that the noon-day sun in February, of which time of the year the Doctor is speaking, is not so oppressive, that people accustomed even to temperate climates languish under it. But some of these people, he, "as a medical man," knew, would not, "under the burning sun of Cuba" live the *winter* out. How curious that the Henry Clay's men, the only three of the party described by Dr. Madden, who have remained in confinement, have lived, not only the "*winter* out," but (without ever having seen or heard of Dr. Madden since the discharge of the William Enge's men, early in May,) the *summer* and *fall* too, of a remarkably sickly year; and were, notwithstanding, all except one, subject to fever and ague before his imprisonment, recently found in excellent health by officers of our navy, expressly sent by Commodore Shubrick to examine into their condition.

Nor is the interesting story of Captain Henderson worthy of regard. That officer was unwillingly led into an affair in which he had no right to interfere, namely, in favor of *American* seamen, and procured nothing for them, except what the Captain-General had long before ordered Mr. Trist, — "The abridgement of their term of confinement," which the latter had not accepted, because he feared that by receiving such an intimation, he might lose the chance of obtaining what has since been obtained. — It is Dr. Madden says, by Mr. Clark's interference, for Mr. Clark has no influence any where their complete liberation.

Dr. Madden's letter is in many other points open to criticism, not the most flattering either to his good sense or morality: but I should be tiring my readers, were I to pursue these remarks. I drop them. To have placed Dr. Madden in his position with Ferdinand Clark is to have given him a sufficiently enviable situation. — Two such cases under one hood!

I cannot however conclude without one observation, foreign perhaps to the purpose of the present note, but such as a sense of justice draws from me: namely, that all the excitement against Mr. Trist has been got up by some worthless shipmasters who were offended with him for pretending that seamen also had civil rights, — by others of a more respectable kind, drawn in thoughtlessly, many of whom now regret their error, — by a few American visitors who, forgetting Mr. Trist's multifarious occupations, have been hurt at his not paying them what they considered proper attentions, — by men at home to whom he is obnoxious in politics, — by one, at least, himself a candidate for the consulate, — by a clique of our citizens established here, who would hardly deem it prudent to visit their own country, — and by, last not least, a British agent, Dr. Madden; whilst on the other hand we have, as supporters of Mr. Trist, all the highly respectable packet captains in this trade, — all other shipmasters of the same standing who have an opportunity of knowing him, — we have the officers of our navy, all except Captain Babbitt and his followers, who were drawn into the net of Clark and Co., — we have the very best of our fellow-countrymen, temporary residents among us; I will name but one, a host in himself, the pious and excellent Dr. Tuckerman; we have our oldest residents in the island; and we have, to conclude our budget, all the citizens of the United States long established as merchants of eminence in this city, Mr. Morland, Mr. Knight and Mr. Spalding, all, all on the side of Mr. Trist! — I have done.

